What is claimed is:

1. A method of configuring communications over a network comprising:

connecting a device to the network;

receiving data on the device from the network;

configuring the device for a communication mode, from a plurality of possible communication modes, wherein the communication mode includes transferring data between the device and the network simultaneously in time;

transferring data between the device and the network based on the communication mode; and

determining whether to retain the device in the communication mode.

2. The method of claim 1 further comprising,

configuring the device for a communication mode, wherein the communication mode includes transferring data between the device and the network separately in time.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein communication mode further comprises a full-duplex mode.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the network comprises an Ethernet network.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the device comprises a medium access controller.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the device comprises a switch.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein the device comprises a hub.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein the device comprises an Ethernet interface card.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein the device comprises a computer.

10. The method of claim 1, wherein the device comprises an Ethernet peripheral device.

11. An apparatus configured to connect to a network, the apparatus comprising:

a memory which stores instructions to,

configure the apparatus for a communication mode, from a plurality of possible communication modes, wherein the communication mode includes transferring data between the device and the network simultaneously in time,

transfer data between the apparatus and the network based on the communication mode,

determine whether to retain the apparatus in the communication mode; and

a processor which executes the instructions.

12. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the instructions include configuring the apparatus for a communication mode, wherein the communication mode includes transferring data between the apparatus and the network separately in time.

13. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the instructions include transferring data between the apparatus and the network in a full-duplex mode.

14. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the network comprises an Ethernet network.

15. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the apparatus is incorporated into a medium access controller.

16. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the apparatus is incorporated into a switch.

17. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the apparatus is incorporated into a hub.

18. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the apparatus is incorporated into an Ethernet interface card.

19. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the apparatus is incorporated into a computer.

20. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the apparatus is incorporated into an Ethernet peripheral device.

21. An article comprising a machine-readable medium that stores instructions that cause a machine to:

receive data from a connected network;

configure the machine for a communication mode, from a plurality of possible communication modes, for transferring data between the machine and the network, wherein the communication mode includes transferring data between the machine and the network simultaneously in time;

transfer data between the machine and the network based on the determined communication mode; and

determine whether to retain the machine in the communication mode.

22. The machine-readable medium of claim 21, wherein the instructions further cause the machine to determine a communication mode, from the plurality of possible communication modes, wherein the communication mode includes transferring data between the machine and the network separately in time.

23. The machine-readable medium of claim 21, wherein the instructions further cause the machine to determine a communication mode, from the plurality of possible communication modes, wherein the communication mode includes transferring data between the machine and the network in a full-duplex mode.

24. The machine-readable medium of claim 21 is a random access memory.

25. The machine-readable medium of claim 21 is a read only memory.

26. The machine-readable medium of claim 21 is a hard disk drive.